

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
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R 131141Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0287
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: US RELATIONSHIP WITH ILO

REF: STATE 38223

1. SUMMARY: THE GOI SUPPORTS USG POSITION IN REGARD
TO RESTRUCTURING OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND WILL TRY
TO HELP, BUT CONSIDERS IT TOO LATE. ON APPLICATION
OF CONVENTIONS THE IRISH REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTS
PROCEDURAL RULES MIGHT BE ADOPTED TO PREVENT
ABSENTEEISM. THE GOI ALSO SUPPORTS AMENDING ARTICLE
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17, AND SUGGESTS THAT BETTER IMEC AND EC COOPERATION
COULD PREVENT CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTIONS FROM BEING
CONSIDERED. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATERIAL IN REFTTEL SEVERAL
TIMES WITH LABOR MINISTRY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS.
IN THE IRISH SYSTEM LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING

DECISIONS IN THIS AREA IS GIVEN TO THE LABOR MINISTRY. SINCE LABOR MINISTER GENE FITZGERALD TAKES LITTLE INTEREST IN ILO AFFAIRS, AND IS CURRENTLY BUSY WITH STRIKES (NATIONAL TELEX, TELEPHONE, POSTAL STRIKE AND A THREATENED AIRLINE STRIKE), EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING RESTS WITH THE NO. 2 MAN, SECRETARY TADGH O'CARROLL, AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISOR IN ILO AFFAIRS TOM TOBIN. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH O'CARROLL AND TOBIN WE GET THE FOLLOWING REACTION.

3. ON ILO RESTRUCTURING THE IRISH DO NOT ENTIRELY UNDERSTAND THE USG POSITION, SINCE WE ADMIT IT IS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE PROPOSAL, AND IT IS NOW A MINIMUM POSITION IN A COMPLICATED NEGOTIATION WITH THE G-77. HOWEVER, AFTER STUDYING THE MATTER AND LOOKING AT FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE ILO, WHICH DON'T LOOK GOOD, O'CARROLL SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH THE USG POSITION ON RESTRUCTURING AND WOULD WORK TO SEE IF THE SITUATION COULD BE IMPROVED, OR AT LEAST DELAYED FOR A LONG TIME. HE HAS, ACCORDINGLY, INSTRUCTED IRISH GENEVA PERMREP GAYNOR TO REQUEST A SEAT ON THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE AND O'CARROLL HIMSELF WILL HEAD THE IRISH DELEGATION TO THE JUNE CONFERENCE DESPITE HEAVY DOMESTIC COMMITMENTS.

4. APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS. THE IRISH WERE "OUTRAGED" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THE REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. O'CARROLL POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE ITSELF WAS SET UP BACK IN THE 30'S AS THE RESULT OF AN IRISH RESOLUTION, AND THE GOI THUS HAS A MORE THAN COMMON INTEREST IN ITS WORK. O'CARROLL SAID HE WAS TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF A PROCEDURAL MOVE TO PREVENT DELIBERATE ABSENTEEISM WHICH PREVENTS A QUORUM -- THE MAIN REASON FOR NOT ADOPTING THE REPORT. HE WILL CONSULT WITH OTHER IMEC DELS.

5. DUE PROCESS. THE GOI SUPPORTS AMENDING ARTICLE 17. HOWEVER, O'CARROLL COMMENTED THAT IN THIS AREA MUCH MORE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY BETTER IMEC AND PARTICULARLY EC COOPERATION. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS, A LOT OF HORSE-TRADING OCCURS AND IN GOOD YEARS IT IS RELATIVELY EASY TO KEEP 'CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL' RESOLUTIONS BELOW NO. 5 ON THE LIST, THUS, EFFECTIVELY PROCLUDING ANY ACTION ON THEM. EC COOPERATION IS HARD TO OBTAIN IN THE ILO BECAUSE OF THE TRIPARTITE SYSTEM: E.G. PARTICULARLY SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS FIND IT HARD TO GO AGAINST

WORKERS' DELS EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT POSITION MIGHT
BE TOTALLY OPPOSED.

6. IRISH LABOR MINISTER GENE FITZGERALD WILL ATTEND
THE JUNE CONFERENCE FOR A FEW DAYS, PROBABLY ARRIVING
ON JUNE 14. OTHERWISE THE DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED
BY LABOR SECRETARY TADGH O'CARROLL AND IRISH GENEVA
PERMREP AMB SEAN GAYNOR. SHANNON

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